





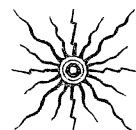


# Art Work

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... OF ...

# ST. CLAIR COUNTY



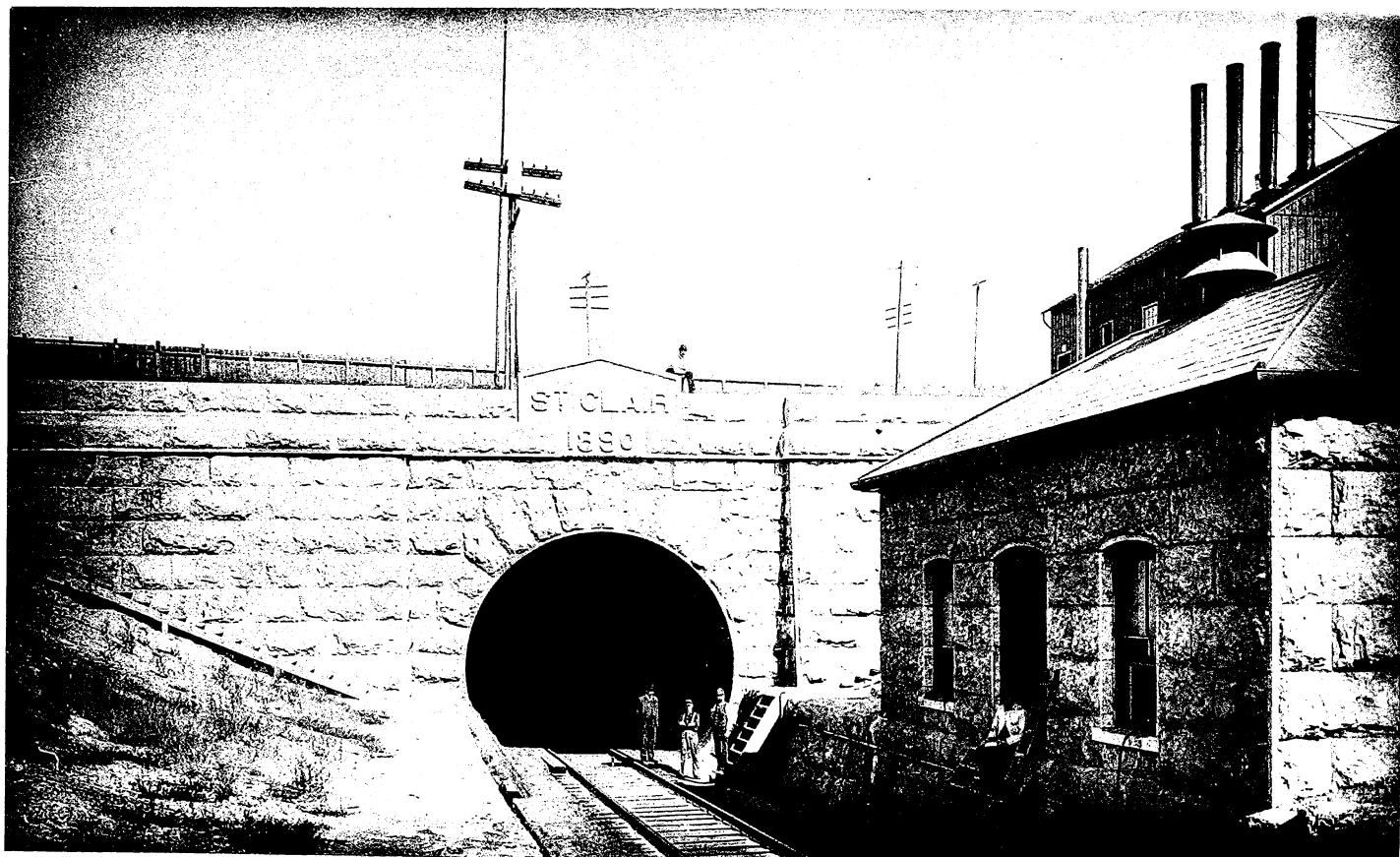
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ST. CLAIR RIVER TUNNEL—PORT HURON.

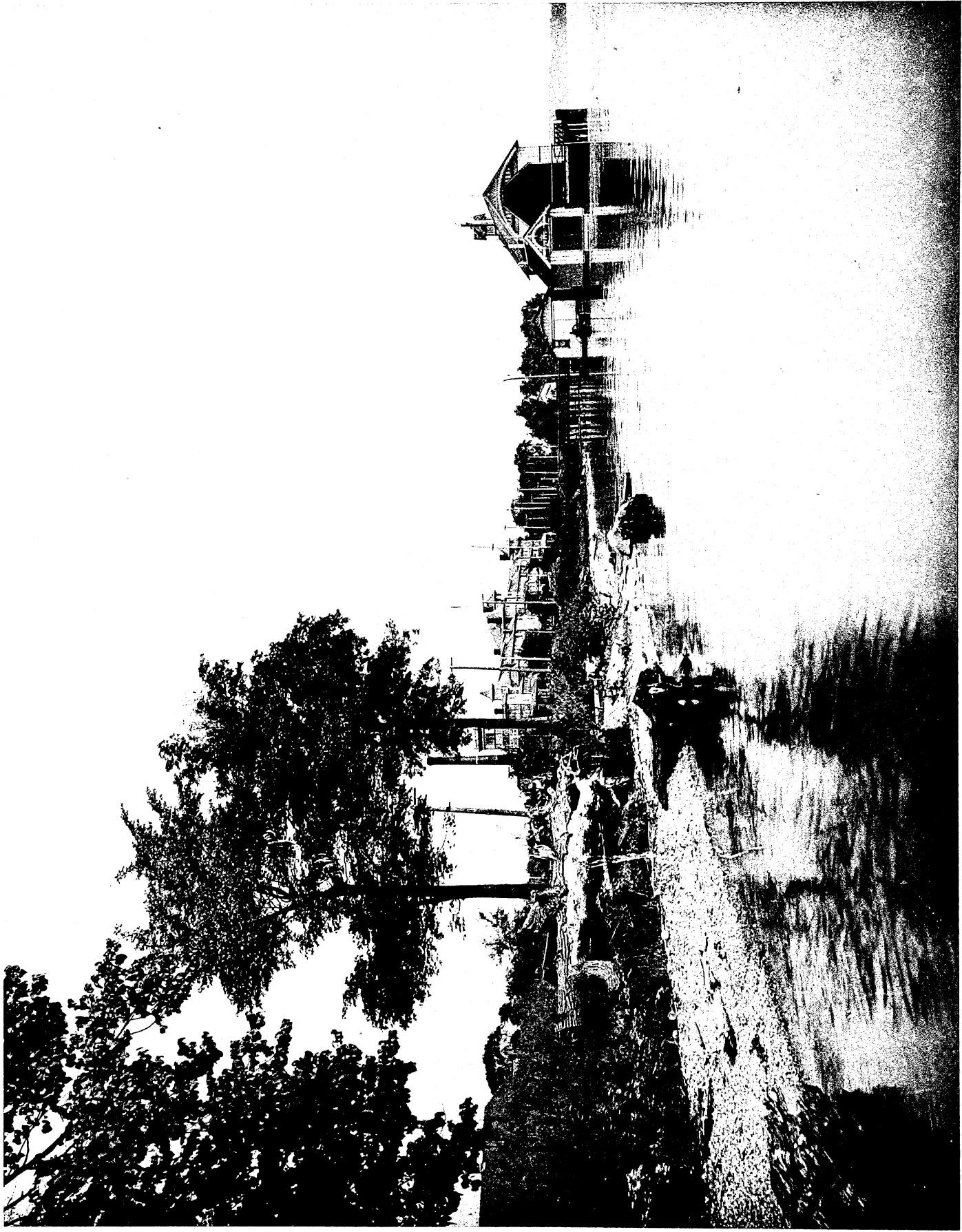
## SAINT CLAIR COUNTY.

**T**WO hundred years have elapsed since the schooner "Griffin" first navigated the waters of "Lake St. Clair." The day on which this vessel entered these waters was the feast day of "Sainte Claire," and thus the lake was named in honor of that day. Some confusion exists in the minds of the people touching the naming of our county, and the lake of the same name, owing to the fact that two officers who figured very prominently in the early history of this locality had very similar names. One, a British officer, was named "Patrick Sinclair;" the other, an American officer, named "St. Clair." The lake and county and river derived their names from the latter.

As late as 1806 the Indian title to the lands comprising this county was not extinguished. It is now more than 100 years since the first permanent settlement of St. Clair county.

I shall not attempt to give a technical geological description of this county; it is enough to say that our county rests upon a bed of salt, and cropping out here and there may be found the

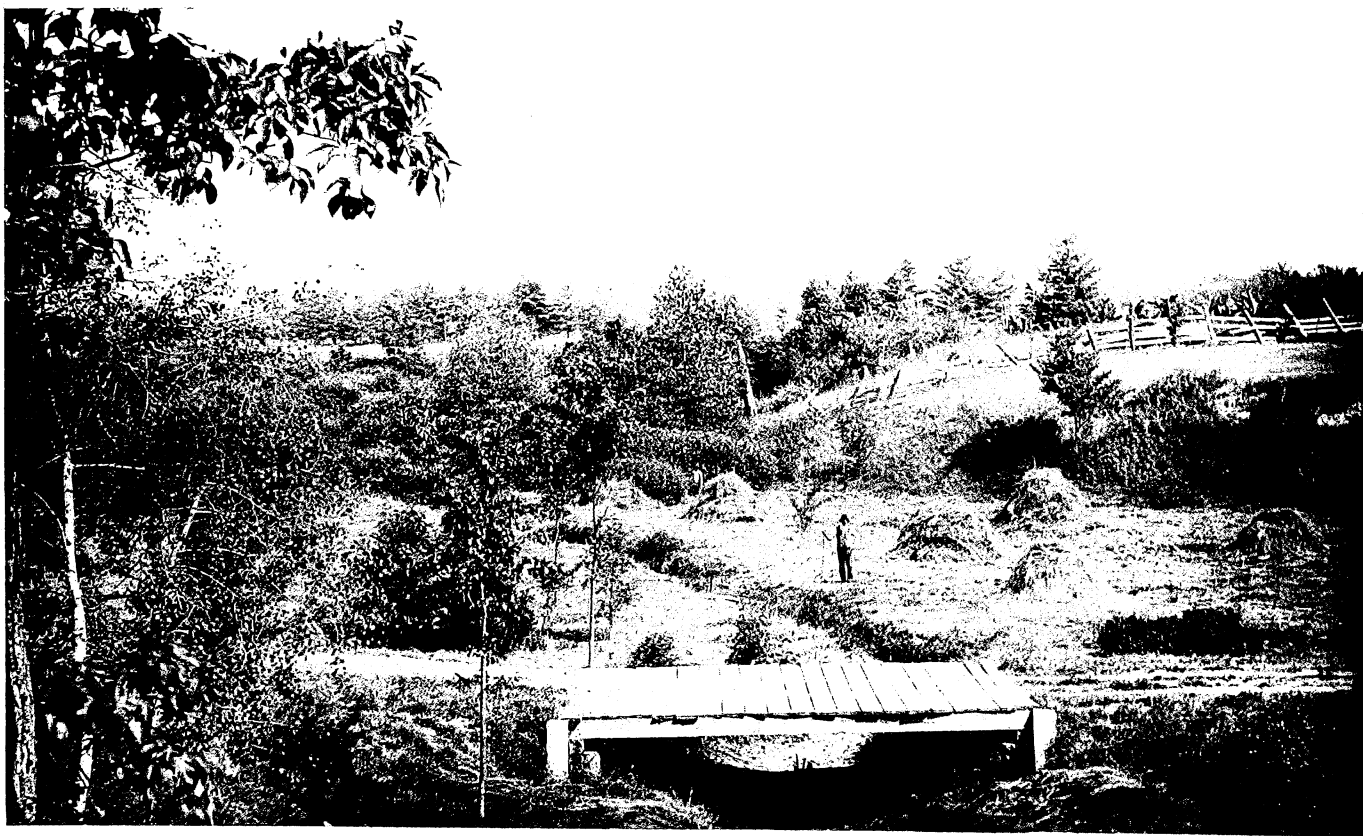




SCENE ON ST. CLAIR RIVER—ST. CLAIR.

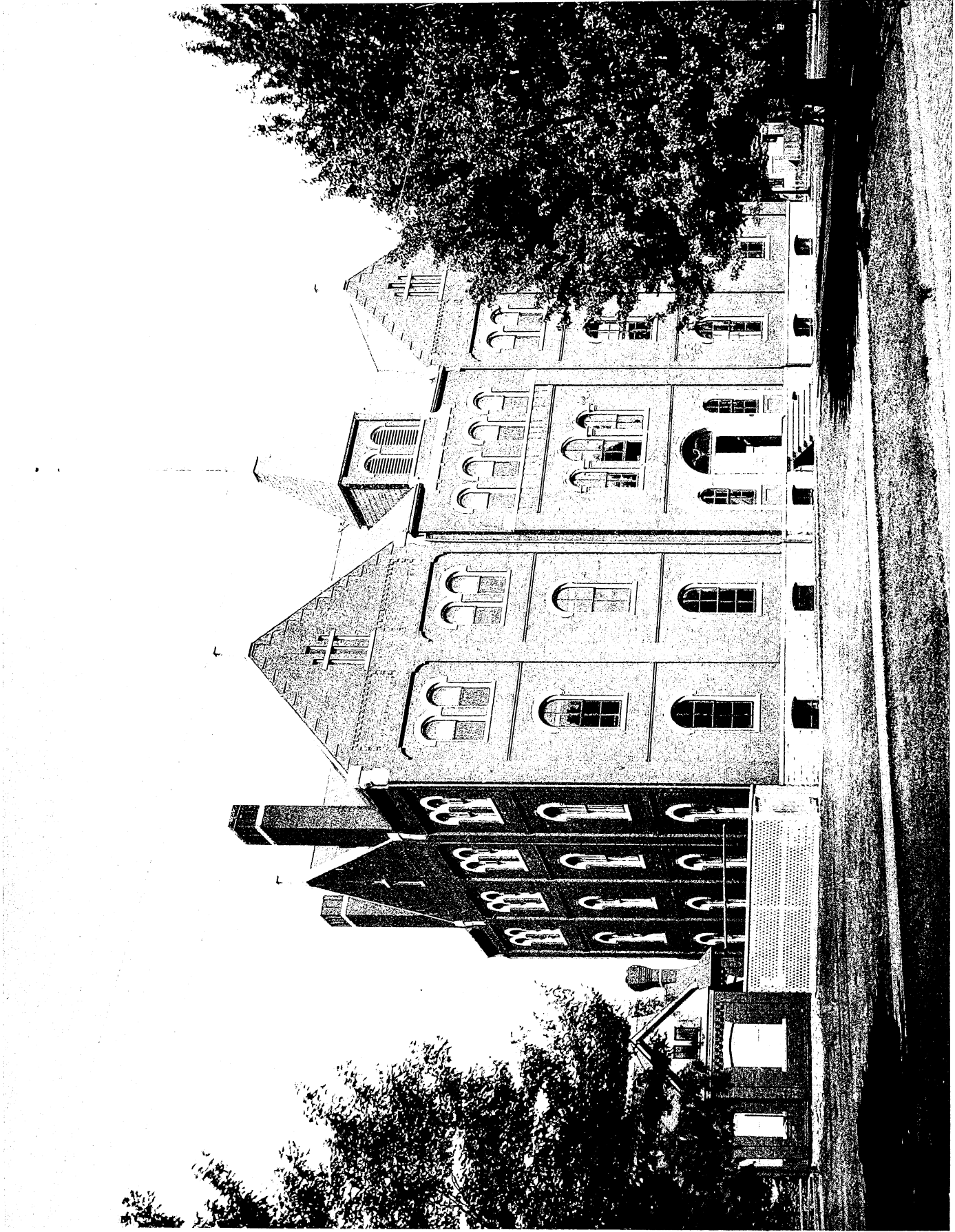






SCENES IN WOODLAND CEMETERY—PORT HURON.





HIGH SCHOOL—PORT HURON.





SCENE AT GRATIOT BEACH—PORT HURON.





PORT HURON CLUB—PORT HURON.





odoriferous petroleum and its accompanying gas. There are situated in this county many beautiful farms susceptible of a very high stage of cultivation, although for the greater part of a century agriculture languished in the shade of the lumber interests. Dotted over the county were magnificent forests of white pine, and even amidst the oak and ash and the beech and maple and basswood, which grew in great profusion on the banks of its rivers and streams, the massive pine would rise majestically as if in token of its superiority. From this county, however, the pine tree has vanished, leaving only its roots to mark the spot of its former life and growth. So long as the pine tree remained so long men turned to it as a means of earning a livelihood. It is clearly within the memory of the middle-aged citizen when "Pine river" and Black river were covered with saw logs and huge saw mills were situated at St. Clair and Port Huron, erected for the purpose of manufacturing lumber from logs floated down the rivers just named. A few saw mills yet remain, one at Port Huron and one at Marysville, six miles below, but the saw logs are mostly the product of Canadian forests. Indeed the pine forests of the Canadian "Georgian Bay" tract furnishes most of our eastern Michigan saw mills with the raw material. Port Huron saw mills do not supply the home market with lumber; indeed millions of feet are brought by rail and by schooners from the forests of pine beyond the Saginaws.

The writer does not deplore the force of circumstances which combined to clear this county of its forests of pine, as beautiful homes now adorn the landscape where once the mighty forest sentinel was supreme; lawns and meadows and cultivated fields have taken the place of the jungles and briars which abound with unerring certainty in the vicinity of forests of pine. Domestic animals now dwell in peace and quietness where only a few years ago the wolf and the bear were nightly prowlers. The cultivated strawberry and the luscious peach are now within reach of the epicurean, and all that tends to make life enjoyable are within the reach of our thrifty, frugal and industrious farmers.

During the transit from what may be termed the era of lumber to the era of agriculture, farming seemed primitive in St. Clair county. Our rural population depended partly upon farming and partly upon what they could earn in the lumber woods for a living, and as the result the fields and fences were neglected. Farmers from the neighboring province of Ontario, and especially the old country farmer who had made Canada his temporary home, and who chanced to pay a visit to Michigan, was sure to make unfavorable comment upon the skill of our

